

Multicultural Fiction at Mount Vernon City Library



Barbara Kingsolver – *The Lacuna*

An epic journey from the Mexico City of artists Diego Rivera and Frida Kahlo to the America of Pearl Harbor, FDR, and J. Edgar Hoover. The Lacuna is a poignant story of a man pulled between two nations as they invent their modern identities.

Lahiri, Jhumpa – *The Namesake*

The immigrant experience follows the Ganguli family from their traditional life in India through their arrival in Massachusetts in the late 1960s and their difficult melding into an American way of life.

Harper Lee – *To Kill a Mockingbird*

Scout's father defends a black man accused of raping a white woman in a small Alabama town during the 1930s.

Naguib Mahfouz– *Palace Walk*

The first book of the Cairo Trilogy recreates turn-of-the-century Cairo, with characters who are simultaneously disciplined and sensual.

Hisham Matar – *In the Country of Men*

On a hot day in Tripoli in the summer of 1979, nine-year-old Suleiman spots his father, supposedly away on business, across from the market square and wearing dark glasses, the first portent of grave danger in a previously unsuspected world.

Gloria Naylor – *The Women of Brewster Place*

In a decaying urban neighborhood, seven African-American women find strength and comfort from each other.

Elif Shafak – *The Bastard of Istanbul*

Turkish teen Asya is coming of age under the wing of her tattoo-parlor owner mother and her three aunts, befriending a cousin from America, and discovering a secret that links her family to the 1915 Armenian deportations and massacres.

Julie Shigekuni – *A Bridge Between Us*

In spite of the secrets they keep from one another, love and family traditions unite four generations of Japanese-American women.

Manil Suri - *The Death of Vishnu*

This story becomes a metaphor for the social and religious divisions of contemporary India, and Vishnu's ascent of the staircase parallels the soul's progress through the various stages of existence.

Amy Tan – *The Kitchen God's Wife*

Winnie and Helen have kept each other's worst secrets for more than fifty years. Now, because she believes she is dying, Helen wants to expose everything. And Winnie angrily determines that she must be the one to tell her daughter, Pearl, about the past—including the terrible truth even Helen does not know.

Alice Walker – *The Color Purple*

Separated from her sister Nettie when they were young girls, Celie finds herself trapped in an abusive marriage with only her faith and letters to her sister to sustain her.

Mount Vernon City Library
315 Snoqualmie Street
Mount Vernon, WA 98273
(360) 336-6209

Adichie, Chimamanda – *Americanah*

A story of love and race centered around a young man and woman from Nigeria who face difficult choices and challenges in the countries they come to call home.

Sherman Alexie – *Indian Killer*

Dubbed the "Indian Killer, a serial killer stalks the streets of Seattle, taking the scalps of white male victims, and thrusts the city's Native American community into turmoil and John Smith, an Indian raised by a white family, into the investigation.

Isabel Allende – *Island Beneath the Sea*

The story of Tete a mulatta woman, a slave and concubine on the island of Saint-Domingue, determined to take control of her own destiny in a society where that would seem impossible.

Julia Alvarez – *In the Time of Butterflies*

A fictional account of the young lives of Mirabal sisters Patria, Minerva, and Maria Teresa, otherwise known in the Dominican Republic as Las Mariposas, describes their suffering and martyrdom in the last days of the Trujillo dictatorship.

T. Coraghessan Boyle – *The Tortilla Curtain*

A wealthy suburbanite couple in Southern California accidentally meets an illegal immigrant couple from Mexico and experience life changing events.

Pearl Buck - *The Good Earth*

Wang Lung, a Chinese peasant, rises from poverty to become a rich landowner with the aid of his patient wife in the 1920s.

Bebe Moore Campbell – *What You Owe Me*

A story of friendship, betrayal, loss, accountability and healing spanning 50 years of African-American history. Two friends start a cosmetics business together.

Breena Clarke – *Stand the Storm*

Even though Sewing Annie Coats and her son, Gabriel, have managed to buy their freedom, their lives are still marked by constant struggle and sacrifice as they prepare for the encroaching war between the States.

Paul Coelho – *The Alchemist*

Santiago, an Andalusian shepherd boy, leaves home to seek his fortune and discovers the rewards are not what he expected.

Ralph Ellison - *Invisible Man*

Story of a young black man's journey of self-discovery in the South and North.

Louise Erdrich – *The Round House*

When his mother, a tribal enrollment specialist living on a reservation in North Dakota, slips into an abyss of depression after being brutally attacked, fourteen-year-old Joe Coutz sets out with his three friends to find the person that destroyed his family.

Laura Esquivel – *Like Water for Chocolate*

As the youngest of three daughters in a turn-of-the-century Mexican family, Tita may not marry but must remain at home to care for her mother.

Myla Goldberg – *Wickett's Remedy*

Dreaming of a better life, Lydia, an Irish-American shopgirl from South Boston, gets her chance when she marries medical student Henry Wickett, the scion of a Boston family, but her life is turned upside down when Henry quits medical school.

Allegra Goodman – *Kaaterskill Falls*

Three Orthodox Jewish families spend their summers together in upstate New York.

David Guterson – *Snow Falling on Cedars*

In the 1950s, a Japanese American fisherman is accused of murder on a small island in the Puget Sound.

Barbara Hambly – *Free Man of Color*

Ben January, free man of color, returns to New Orleans in 1800s, only to find that nothing has changed for African Americans, and when a woman is murdered, whites in the community want to blame him.

Melinda Haynes – *Mother of Pearl*

Five different people search for love, security, and identity in the small town of Petal, Mississippi in the 1950s.

Oscar Hijuelos – *Beautiful Maria of My Soul*

In a part sequel and part retelling of "The Mambo Kings Play Songs of Love," the inspiration for the Mambo King's biggest hit, Maria, now 60 years old, reminisces about her days and nights in Havana, offering a completely different perspective on the Mambo Kings' story.